

Poeciliid Models for Biological Invasions

Kit Magellan

University of Battambang, Cambodia



Key focus: Common traits in invasion success



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- **Neophilia**  **Neophobia**

Key focus: Common traits in invasion success

- **Invasions are highly context dependent**
 - Species; Ecosystem; Habitat; Community; Climate...
 - Generalizations are rare
- **Behavioural flexibility enhances invasion success**

[Magellan et al (2019) Aquatic Invasions 14: 502-517

Sol & Weis (2019) Aquatic Invasions 14: 551-565]

Key focus: Common traits in invasion success

- **Narrow the focus**
 - **Examine a single model species/group of species**
 - **See what common traits emerge in different contexts**

Behaviour and Invasions Special Issue

Aquatic Invasions



Behaviour and Invasions Special Issue

Aquatic Invasions

5 out of 13 submissions

Poeciliidae

Foraging behaviour of a native topminnow when shoaling with invaders

Morelia Camacho-Cervantes¹, Vianey Palomera-Hernandez¹ and Constantino Macías García^{2,*}

Predatory behaviour of female guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*) in a mosquito control context: the importance of social and habitat factors

Amy E. Deacon^{1,4,*}, Susanta K. Ghosh², Anuradha Bhat³ and Anne E. Magurran⁴

Personality-dependent survival of the invasive mosquitofish: being social can be deadly

Tomas Brodin^{1,2,*}, Sean Fogarty¹, Andrew Sih¹ and Julien Cote^{1,3,4}

Temperature effects on exploratory behaviour and learning ability of invasive mosquitofish

Kit Magellan^{1,2,*}, Timothy C. Bonebrake¹ and David Dudgeon¹

Behaviour and Invasions Special Issue Aquatic Invasions

Behaviour and Invasion papers

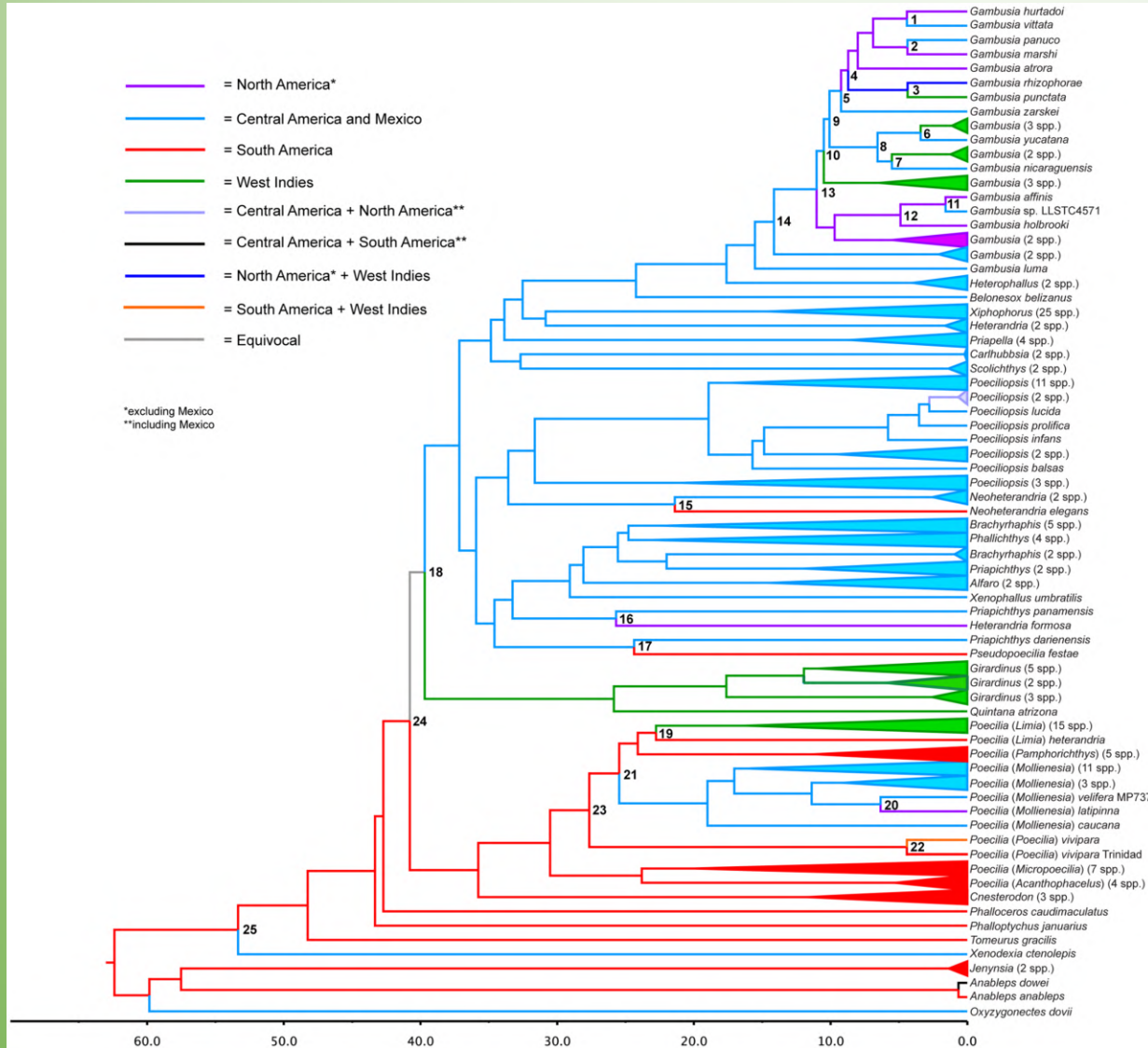
<https://www.reabic.net/aquaticinvasions/2019/issue3.aspx>

Family Poeciliidae

Family Poeciliidae

- Small fish
- ~ 250 species (349: Fishbase)
- Native to Americas

Family Poeciliidae



Reznick et al (2017) The origin and biogeographic diversification of fishes in the family Poeciliidae. PLoS ONE 12(3): e0172546.

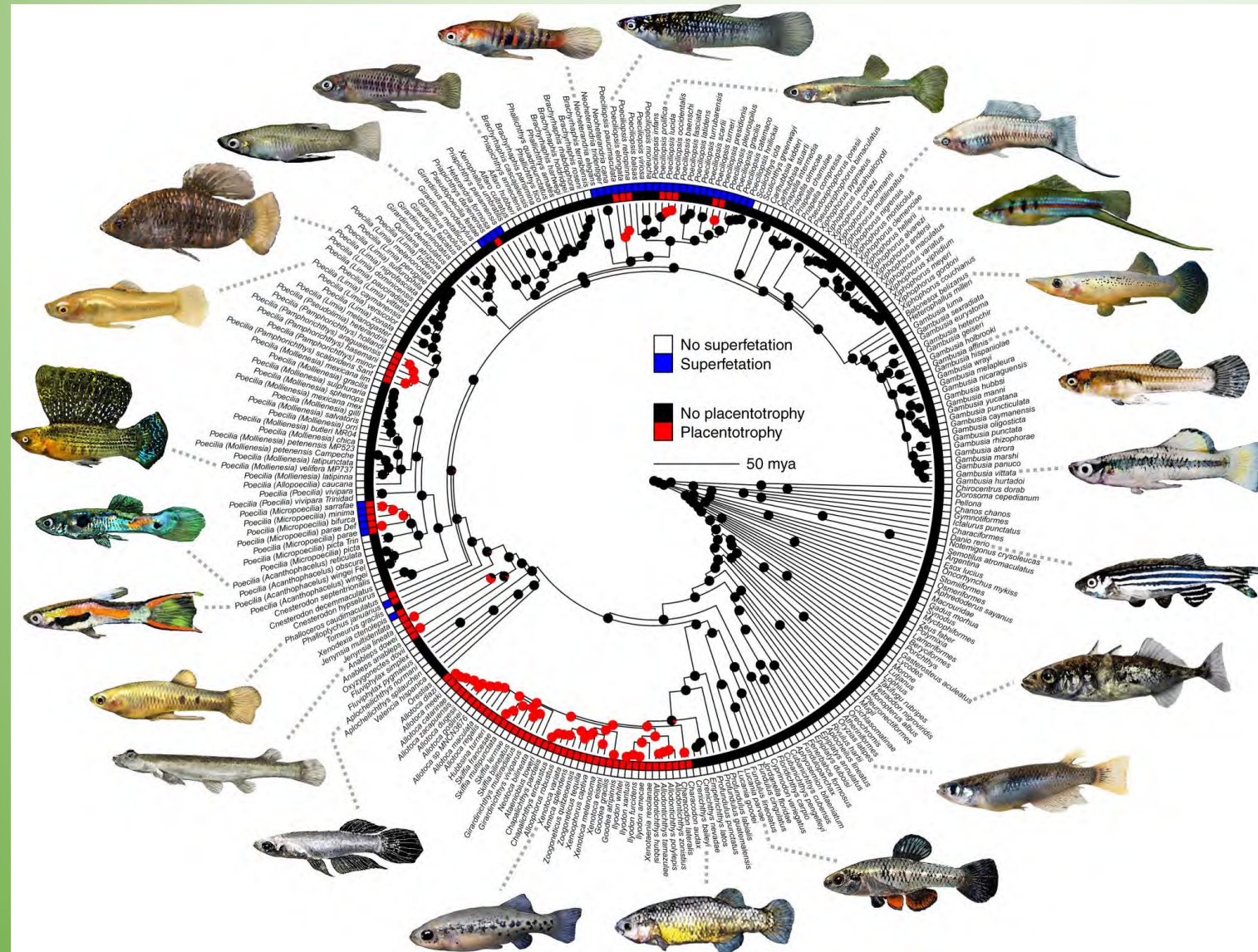
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 - Internal fertilization
 - Viviparous

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- Small fish
- ~ 250 species (349: Fishbase)
- Native to Americas
- aka live-bearing toothcarps
 - Internal fertilization
 - Viviparous
- Several well known invasives
 - Mosquitofish (world's 100 worst)
 - Guppy

The Poeciliidae



Furness et al (2019) How conflict shapes evolution in Poeciliid fishes.
Nature Communications 10: 3335

Family Poeciliidae

**Model species for
invasions???**

Quick Lit Review

How Poeciliid fishes contribute to invasion science



Quick Lit Review

How Poeciliid fishes contribute to invasion science

- Google Scholar
- 1st 5 pages
 - invasi* +
 - Poecili*, Gambusia, Xiphophorus, guppy, mosquitofish, swordtail, molly
- English Language
- Easy to access

Quick Lit Review

- Invasi* +
 - Poecili* [5,910]
 - Gambusia [11,900]
 - Xiphophorus [3,780]
 - Guppy [49]
 - Mosquitofish [8,260]
 - Swordtail [2,350]
 - Molly [17,900]
- Cut: non-relevant, theses, conference presentations, repeats

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88 articles

Overview



Overview

Broad Metrics



Overview

Broad Metrics

- 22 countries, 6 continents

Overview

Broad Metrics

- 22 countries, 6 continents
- Types of study
 - Experimental – 32 (36%)
 - Survey – 14 (16%)
 - Survey + analysis – 24 (27%)
 - Model – 3 (3.5%)
 - Review – 9 (10%)
 - Genetics – 3 (3.5%)
 - Report – 1 (1%)

Overview

Broad Metrics

- Species
 - Multi-species – 10
 - *Gambusia affinis* – 20
 - *Gambusia holbrooki* - 28
 - *G. geiseri*, *G. hispaniolae* – 4
 - *Poecilia reticulata* – 14
 - *P. Mexicana*, *P. gracilis*, *P. latipinna* – 2
 - *Xiphophorus helleri* – 4
 - *X. variatus*, *X. maculatus* – 2
 - *P. sphenops*, *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus*,
Phallocerus caudimaculatus – 1

Overview

Broad Metrics

- **Fields of Research**
 - Behaviour – 20
 - Impacts – 15
 - Records/ID – 11
 - Life history– 6
 - Control/management – 6
 - Climate change, thermal tolerance – 5
 - Introductions, trophic level/diet, genetics – 3
 - Reproduction, parasites, community – 2
 - Morphology, prediction, metabolism - 1

Overview

Behaviour

- **Fields of Research**
 - Personality, dispersal – 4
 - Aggression, competition, predation – 3
 - Habitat preference, predator avoidance, foraging, social – 2
 - Exploratory, learning, activity, reproduction – 1
 - Review

Key focus: Common traits in invasion success

species

methodologies

subjects

communities

interpretation

habitats

ecosystems

factors

invasion stage

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The way forward?

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The way forward?

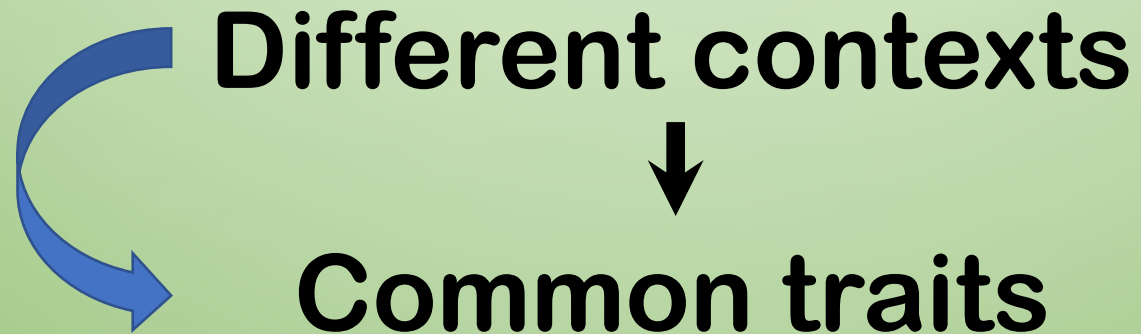
Different contexts



Common traits

Key focus: Common traits in invasion success

The way forward?



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The way forward?

Common traits



Different contexts

Great Global Gambusia Experiment

Start with likely common trait(s)
Assess the effects of context

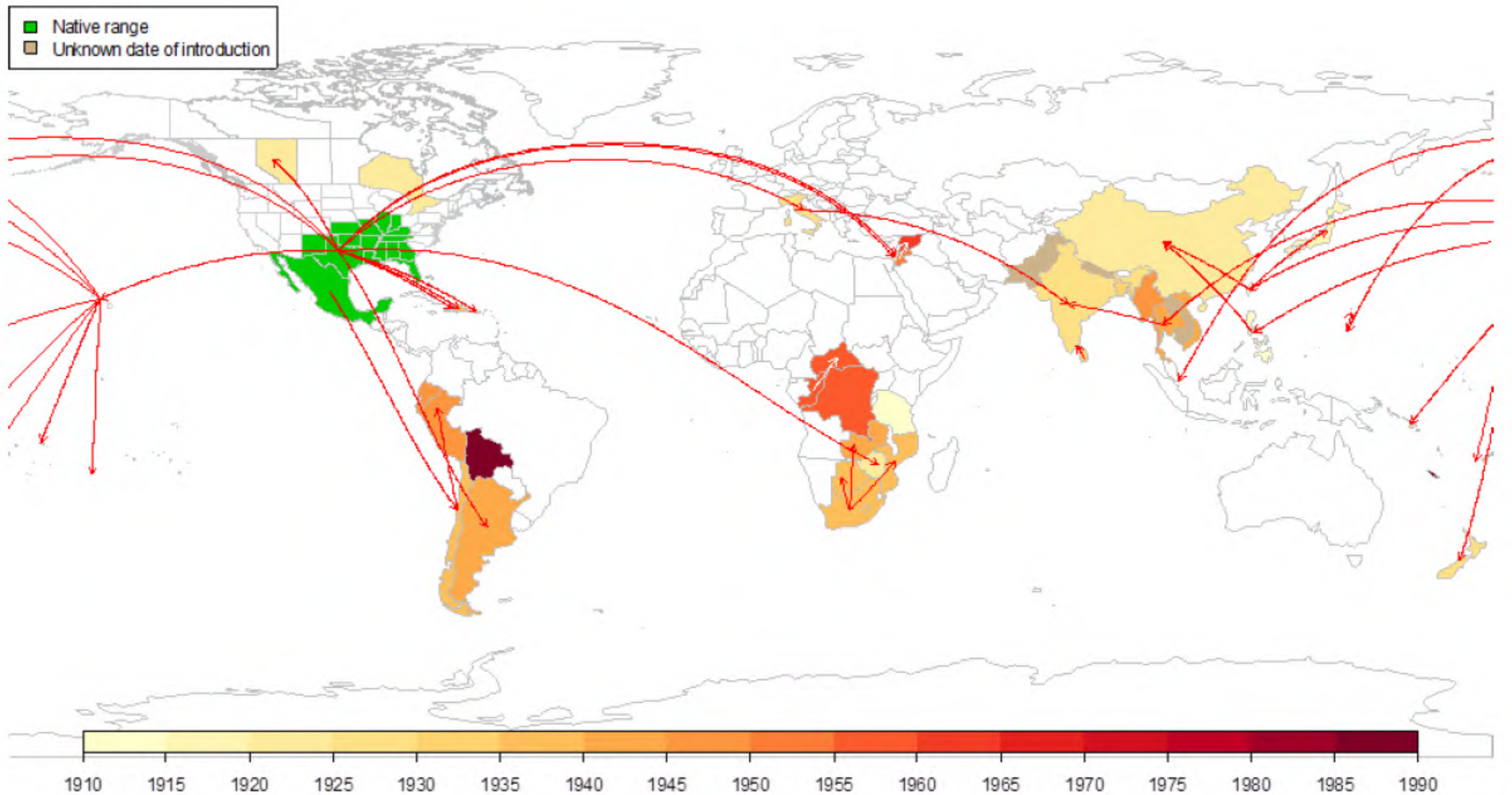
Why Gambusia?

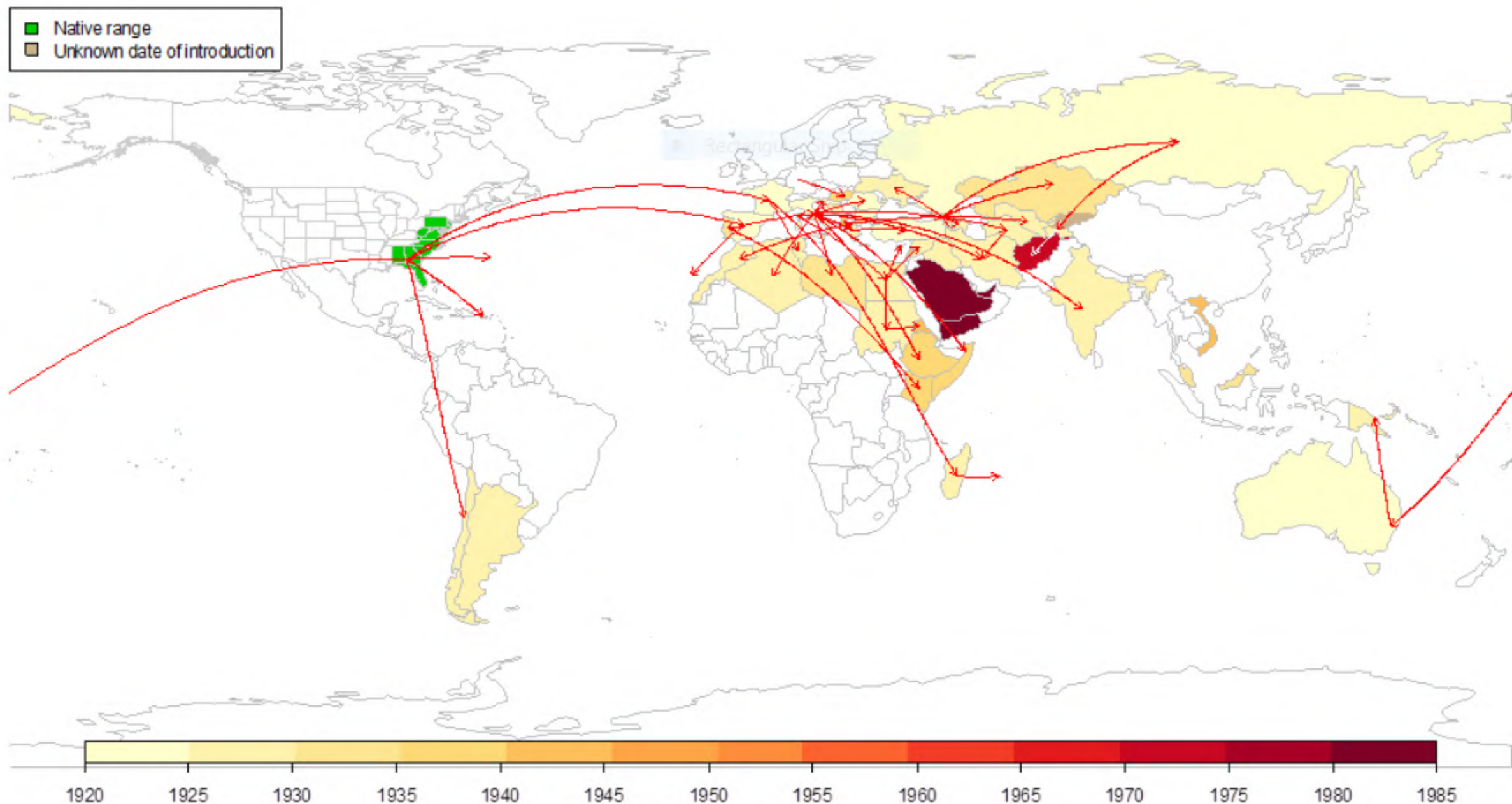
Gambusia affinis

Gambusia holbrooki

Why Gambusia?

- They are everywhere
- Wealth of background information
- Good idea of introduction history





Gambusia holbrooki. SREAN Pao (2015) PhD Thesis: Universitat de Girona

Why Gambusia?

- They are everywhere
- Wealth of background information
- Good idea of introduction history
- Encourage global cooperation

Cooperation

Cooperation

- Which 'common trait'?

Cooperation

- Which 'common trait'?
 - Behaviour
 - Flexibility
 - Neophilia/Neophobia
 - Exploratory tendency

Cooperation

- Which 'common trait'?
 - Behaviour
 - Flexibility
 - Neophilia/Neophobia
 - Exploratory tendency
 - Criteria
 - Easy to test – simple assay
 - Very easy to replicate
 - Relevant to invasions

Cooperation

Funding???

Cooperation

Interested?

Need access to a *G. affinis/holbrooki* population
Introduced, Native, Lab

kitmagellan@gmail.com

Cambodia







Myanmar
(Burma)

Hanoi

Macau
澳門

Hong Kong
香港

CAMBODIA

LAOS

THAILAND

Anlong Veng

0 100 km
0 60 miles

Poipet

Stung Treng

Angkor

Siem Reap

Vietnamese Floating Village

Battambang

Tonle Sap

Pailin

Kompong Luong

Kratie

Pursat

Phnom
Aoral
(1813m)

Kompong Cham

Krong Koh
Kong

Udong

Phnom Penh

VIETNAM

Moc Bai

Gulf of
Thailand

Bokor
National Park

Sihanoukville

Kampot

Chau
Doc

Mekong
River

South China Sea

CAMBODIA



CAMBODIA



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CAMBODIA



CAMBODIA



CAMBODIA



Mainstream dams on the Mekong



Source: Challenge Program on Water and Food, Mekong River Commission

Invasion Explosion

Thanks!

Questions & Feedback

kitmagellan@gmail.com